
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

TEXT: *JOSHUA 3:5-17 KJV*

And Joshua said unto the people, ***Sanctify yourselves:*** for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you. (6) And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people. (7) And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. (8) And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan. (9) And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God. (10) ***And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you,*** and that ***he will without fail drive out from before you*** the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites. (11) Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan. (12) Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man. (13) And it shall come to pass, ***as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap***. (14) And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; (15) And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest.) (16) That ***the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap*** very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. (17) ***And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.***

INTRO: *KEEP MOVING FORWARD*

GENESIS 12:1-4 KJV

Hundreds of years before

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, ***unto a land that I will shew thee:*** (2) And I will make of thee a ***great nation***, and ***I will bless thee***, and ***make thy name great***; and thou shalt be a blessing: (3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (4) So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

The Covenant was fourfold:

- God would make Abraham's descendants a great nation.
- God would bless Abraham materially and make his name great.
- God would protect Abraham by blessing those that blessed him and cursing those that opposed Abraham.
- God would bless all the families of the earth through Abraham.

God's Command

I. *SANCTIFY YOURSELVES*

Joshua 3:5 And Joshua said unto the people, **Sanctify** yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

JOHN 17:15-19 KJV

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. (16) They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (17) ***Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth***. (18) As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. (19) And ***for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth***.

Sanctify – (g) hagios – (h) qadosh – **Set Apart, To Make Holy**

Isaiah 6:1-3 KJV – (h) qadosh

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. (2) Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. (3) And one cried unto another, and said, ***Holy, holy, holy***, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Revelation 4:8 KJV – (g) hagios

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, ***Holy, holy, holy***, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Leviticus 11:44 KJV – (h) qadosh

For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore ***sanctify*** yourselves, and ye shall be ***holy***; for I am ***holy***: ...

1 Peter 1:15-16 KJV – (g) hagios

But as he which hath called you is ***holy***, so be ye ***holy*** in all manner of conversation; (16) Because it is written, Be ye ***holy***; for I am ***holy***.

Everyone of us has been commanded to SANCTIFY Ourselves!

Obeidence Brings Confidence

II. Ye Shall Know That The Living God Is Among You!

The Red Sea parted forty years prior – only Joshua and Caleb were adults then… the rest were either teenagers or younger or not yet born – The Children of Israel need encouragement and reassurance that God Is Among Them

Leviticus 26:11-13 KJV

And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. (12) And ***I will walk among you***, and ***will be your God, and ye shall be my people***. (13) ***I am the LORD your God***, which brought you forth out of the

land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

Jeremiah 7:22-23 KJV

For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: (23) But this thing commanded I them, saying, ***Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.***

How Confident are You that God Is With You?

Obeidence Brings Confidence ILLUS: Baptisim

Do you have experiences to look back on?

Passing It On To Future Generations

III. Twelve Stones

Joshua 4:1-3 KJV

And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, (2) Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, (3) And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, ***twelve stones***, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.

Joshua 4:6-7 KJV

That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? (7) Then ve shall answer them. That the ***waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD***; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and ***these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever***.

Joshua 4:15-18 KJV

And the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, (16) ***Command the priests that bear the ark of the testimony, that they come up out of Jordan***. (17) Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, Come ye up out of

Jordan. (18) And it came to pass, ***when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD were come up out of the midst of Jordan***, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that ***the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before***.

JOSHUA 4:20-24 KJV

And those ***twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan***, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. (21) And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, ***When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones?*** (22) Then ye shall let your children know, saying, ***Israel came over this Jordan on dry land***. (23) For ***the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:*** (24) That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

- **Sanctify Yourselves – Set Apart – Holy**
- **BE ONFIDENT – God Is Still With Us!**
- **Pass It Along!** (little eyes are watching you)